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Kennedy family asked to produce President's brain

From Our Own Correspondent
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The controversy over the assassination of President Kennedy, which has never completely died down, was given fresh impetus today. A pathologist asserted that the President's brain, and tissue slides from his wounds, had been withheld from the national archives by his family.

Dr Cyril Wecht claimed that unanswered questions about the assassination would remain unresolved so long as these objects were not available for examination. A spokesman for the Kennedy family claimed that all evidence requested by the Justice Department had been placed in the archives and that Dr Wecht had resorted to "offensive" probing.

Dr Wecht said in an interview with *The New York Times* that the President's preserved brain was still "around somewhere". He would ask Mr Burke Marshall who represented the Kennedy

family, to allow a panel of experts to study it.

The records of the Warren Commission on the assassination show only that the brain was "removed and preserved for further study". After the autopsy various medical items were transferred to Mrs Evelyn Lincoln, the President's secretary. The national archives said the material had then been passed on to the late Senator Robert Kennedy.

There was some disagreement on the substance of Dr Wecht's allegations. Mr Harold Weisberg, another critic of the official version of the assassination, today called Dr Wecht's claims "a further obfuscation of the truth".

In a telephone interview Mr Weisberg said the Kennedy family had been blamed for withholding evidence about the assassination when in fact they were not responsible for this. The responsibility, he asserted, lay with such agencies of the Federal Government as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the national archives.